Canal is in advanced stage of construction and the works in the reach 263 kms to 357 kms have also been commenced.

(c) and (d) The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) filed a petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 15th April, 1994 against the construction of Sardar Sarovar Project. However, the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 18th October, 2000 has *inter alia* directed that construction of the dam would continue as per the award of the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal. The NBA has constantly been agitating against further raising of the Dam. However, the work of construction of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is proceeding as per the Action Plan finalised by the Narmada Control Authority on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Constitution of Water Quality Assessment Authority

2427. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Water Quality Assessment Authority to oversee the water related issues;

(b) if so, the composition of the Authority and the guidelines under which such authority will function; and

(c) the extent to which water related issues would be solved by the Authority ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition of members of the Authority as per an Extraordinary notification in the "The Gazette of India" dated 22-6-2001 is given below :

1.	Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests	—Chairperson
2.	Addl. Secretary and Project Director, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests	—Member
3.	Chairman, Central Water Commission	—Member
4.	Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	—Member

5.	Adviser, National River Conservation Directorate, M/o Environment and Forests	—Member
6.	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation	—Member
7.	Joint Secretary, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Poverty Alleviation	—Member
8.	Chairman, Central Ground Water Authority	—Member
9.	Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board	—Member
10.	Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi	—Member
11.	Director, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur	—Member
12.	Commissioner (Water Management), Ministry of Water Resources	—Member Secretary

The Authority shall exercise the powers under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for issuing directions and for taking measures with respect to matters referred to in clauses (ix), (xi), (xii) and (xiii) of Sub-section 2 of section 3 of the Act.

(c) The Authority shall direct the agencies (government/local bodies/ non-governmental) for the following :

(a) to standardize method(s) for water quality monitoring and to ensure quality of data generation for utilization thereof ;

(b) to take measures so as to ensure proper treatment of waste water with a view to restoring the water quality of the river/water bodies to meet the designated-best uses;

(c) to take up research and development activities in the area of water quality management;

(d) to promote recycling/re-use of treated sewage/trade effluent for irrigation in development of agriculture;

(e) to draw action plans for quality improvement in water bodies, and monitor and review/assess implementation of the schemes launched/to be launched to that effect;

(f) to draw scheme(s) for imposition of restriction in water abstraction and discharge of treated sewage/trade effluent on land, rivers and other water bodies with a view to mitigating crisis of water quality;

(g) to maintain minimum discharge for sustenance of aquatic life forms in riverine system;

(h) to promote rain water harvesting;

(i) to utilize self-assimilation capacities at the critical river stretches to minimize cost of effluent treatment;

(j) to provide information to pollution control authorities to facilitate allocation of waste load;

(k) to review the status of quality of national water resources (both surface water and groundwater) and identify "Hot Spots" for taking necessary actions for improvement in Water Quality;

(l) to interact with the authorities/committees constituted or to be constituted under the provisions of the said Act for matters relating to management of water resources;

(m) to constitute/set-up State-level Water Quality Review Committees (WQRC) to coordinate the work to be assigned to such committees; and

(n) to deal with any environmental issue concerning surface and groundwater quality which may be referred to it by the Central Government or the State Government relating to the respective areas, for maintenance and/or restoration of quality to sustain designated best uses.

Misutilization of Government Funds by NPCC

2428. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: